

REMARKS

In response to the objection to the drawings set forth in the Office Action, Applicants submit the attached replacement sheets of formal drawings wherein original Fig. 3 has been separated into Figs. 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) in order to comply with the Patent Office rules for formal drawings. The Examiner's approval of the attached replacement sheets of formal drawings is requested.

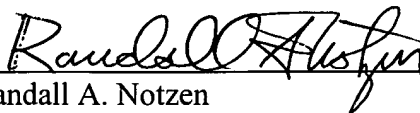
The specification has been amended to correct minor editorial errors and to account for the submission of the attached replacement sheets of drawings wherein Figs. 3(a)-3(c) replace original Fig. 3. The Examiner's approval of the amendments to the specification is requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response to this rejection, independent claims 1, 13 and 18 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action. It is believed that these amendments place claims 1-20 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the attached replacement sheets of formal drawings and the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 1-20 and allowance of claims 1-20 are requested.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of formal drawings are being provided in response to the objections to the drawings in the Office Action. To comply with the Patent Office rules for formal drawings, original Fig. 3 has been spread across three pages labeled Fig. 3(a), Fig. 3(b) and Fig. 3(c). Correspondingly, each instance of "Fig. 3" in the specification has been replaced with – Figs. 3(a)-3(c).

Attachments: Replacement Sheets